

# U.S. Aide Says Pilot Told Truth to Soviet

Special to The New York Times  
WASHINGTON, May 15

George V. Allen, director of the United States Information Agency, declared today that the pilot of the reconnaissance plane downed over the Soviet Union did when captured exactly what he had been instructed to do.

Mr. Allen said that when Francis G. Powers, the pilot, went down, "he told exactly what his mission was, exactly what he was expected to do."

"And he was under instructions to do that," Mr. Allen said, adding: "He gave an honest report of what his mission was, and I think that ought to be realized by everyone concerned."

Mr. Allen's statement, made on the American Broadcasting Company's television program "College News Conference," was in contrast with Russian

The Russians have said that Mr. Powers was supposed to blow up his plane in the air and to commit suicide with a poisoned needle which he had been told to use. They declared that they had tested the needle on a dog with fatal results.

Mr. Allen said United States diplomats in Moscow would do everything possible to see that Mr. Powers got a fair trial if the Russians were to try him as a spy, as they say they will. Although the United States Embassy in Moscow has been trying to see the pilot, there has been no confirmation that the Soviet government has granted this request.

Mr. Allen, whose agency directs the United States' foreign propaganda efforts, including the Voice of America broadcasts, also denied that Secretary of State Christian A. Herter had said that flights such as that of Mr. Powers over the Soviet Union would continue.

## Denial on Herter Statement

He said Secretary Herter had said that there is an obligation and responsibility on the part of the United States Government and the free world to try to obtain information to guard against surprise attack, but he has not said we are going to continue to fly.

Mr. Allen said he would like to correct "a great misunderstanding" about what Mr. Herter had said.

Last Monday it was inferred from a statement issued by Secretary Herter that the United States would continue such flights. Premier Khrushchev reacted indignantly. The pertinent section of Mr. Herter's statement said:

"The Government of the United States would be derelict to its responsibility not only to the American people but to free peoples everywhere if it did not, in the absence of Soviet cooperation, take such measures as are possible unilaterally to lessen and to overcome this danger of surprise attack. In fact the United States has not and does not shirk this responsibility."

Mr. Allen also discussed the State Department's first statement after the Soviet had announced that the United States plane was down and the pilot captured. He said the statement that the craft was a "push-button reply" that had been prepared in advance. The department's press officer, Lincoln White, made the reply in good faith, he said.

"One of the very difficult problems of the U-2," he said, "is the situation of our allies. It is perfectly obvious that our allies are naturally going to be much more concerned from now on about the actions taken from air bases in their territory."

FOIAb3b

CPYRIGHT